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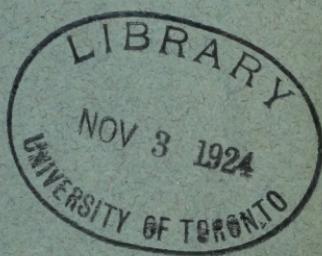
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TO MAKE MEN TRAITORS

Germany's Attempts to Seduce Her
Prisoners-of-War

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HODDER AND STOUGHTON
LONDON NEW YORK TORONTO

MCMXVIII

Two Pence



TO MAKE MEN TRAITORS



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Roger Casement
14 April 1916

Rolf v. Hoerschelmann sc.

The German propagandist periodical *Irische Blätter* ('Irish Leaves') for October, 1917, gives the above reproduction of a card which it states was presented by Casement to the commander of the vessel on which he made the voyage to Ireland which resulted in his arrest on Good Friday, April 21, 1916.

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Germany's Attempts to Seduce Her Prisoners-of-War

THE *Volksrecht*, the official organ of the Swiss Social Democrats, a daily paper appearing in Zürich, published on November 3rd and 5th, 1917, some German documents which reached it, no matter how, direct from Berlin. The *Volksrecht* entitled its revelations: "DOCUMENTS OF DISGRACE: THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT INCITES MEN TO TURN TRAITORS."

In the observations with which it prefaces the publication of these official documents, the *Volksrecht*, in an editorial, says:—

"It will be remembered that just at the outbreak of the war the German Government suddenly manifested remarkable sympathy with revolutions, always provided, of course, that these took place in one of the countries at war with Germany. Patriotic Germans immediately began to imagine that they saw the flames of revolution flaring up in India, Egypt, the Caucasus, and Heaven knows where else. The fabric of these patriotic visions having soon proved baseless, the German Government found itself obliged to take matters in hand.

"The Government of Germany accordingly announced that its mission was to deliver Ireland, India, Egypt, Poland, Persia, and the Caucasus—

that very same Germany which, in her oppression of her Polish, Alsatian, Lorraine, and Danish subjects, has succeeded . . . in outvying the Asiatic barbarism of the late Russian Government. . . .

“But, although the nature and aims of this policy of liberation are obvious, its methods and means are profoundly mysterious. The following official documents afford the reader a glimpse of these mysteries. It is a glimpse into an abyss of infamy.

“The documents include the Convention of the Under Secretary of State, Zimmermann, afterwards German Foreign Minister, with Sir Roger Casement, concerning an Irish Brigade, to be composed of British prisoners of Irish origin, and to be used against England, either in Ireland itself or in Egypt.

“They show the systematic endeavours made to induce defenceless prisoners of war to commit high treason, to turn traitor to their country. Pressure is put on them to break their oath of fidelity to the flag—that is, to sully what is most sacred to a soldier, his honour. International law, of which the German Government gives itself out as the champion, and the most elementary rules of which are defied by such practices, is trampled in the dirt, although a hypocritical attempt is made to explain away this gross breach of right by sophistical arguments. . . .

“Were the secret actions of the German Government to be judged by its own publicly proclaimed legal and moral precepts, then any number of the leaders and supporters of that Government would have to be condemned to penal servitude.

"Incidentally, this monstrous display of infamy and defiance of international law as regards the Irish Brigade proves to be an equally monstrous piece of folly. The result of all this incitement to high treason and of the pressure, direct and indirect, exerted on prisoners of war is an Irish 'Brigade' of 54 men, all told. All this villainy for virtually nothing!"

"Next comes the impressionment of the Mohammedan subjects of England, France, and Russia who had been taken prisoner by the Germans and who were now coerced to fight against their own countries. Count Hardenberg, in his report, describes these Mohammedans as, in the main, a pack of scoundrels, and suggests that they should be treated accordingly. Enthusiasm for the 'Holy War' is to be instilled into them by overloading them with work in prisoners-of-war camps. So long as they fought in the armies of France, England, or Russia, they were 'savages' and a 'disgrace to European civilisation.' Yet they are quite good enough to carry out the German Government's mission of disseminating 'civilisation and freedom.' The secret actions of that Government are, in sober truth, so many deadly blows against those standards of public morality which it openly proclaims.

"That the German Government realised what it was doing is clear from the precautions taken to prevent the delegates of the Powers, to whom were confided the interests of subjects of states at war with Germany, from noticing any signs of the efforts made to seduce men in prisoners' camps from their

allegiance, either by deceiving the delegates or by giving them false official information, or simply by forbidding them entrance to such camps.

“Nowhere, however, is the consciousness of the dishonourable and criminal nature of this propaganda so manifest as in the last document of this collection, in which views are exchanged between the German Minister of War and General von Löwenfeldt, the German Emperor’s Adjutant-General and Acting General in Command of the Guards.

“That Prussian officers should consider the duties assigned to them by the War Office and the Foreign Office as incompatible with their honour is a criticism of the political morality of these highest functionaries in the Empire which speaks volumes.

“From the documents which follow,” concludes the *Volksrecht*, “the reader can now draw his own conclusions.”

I.

FOREIGN OFFICE, BERLIN,

December 28th, 1914.

Dear Sir Roger,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd inst., in which you submitted to the Imperial German Government a proposal for the formation of an *Irish Brigade*, pledged to fight in the cause of Irish nationality alone, and to be formed of such Irishmen, now prisoners of war in Germany, as may be willing to enrol themselves in such a corps.

In reply I have the honour to inform you that the Imperial German Government agrees to your proposal and accepts the conditions under which the Brigade might possibly be formed, as laid down in the statement annexed to your letter of the 23rd inst., and enclosed herewith.

I have the honour to be, dear Sir Roger,
Your obedient servant,

(Sgd.) ZIMMERMANN.

Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

The Honourable Sir Roger Casement,
Eden Hotel, Kurfürstendamm, Berlin.

Secret.

In the first five Articles of the Convention concluded between Sir Roger Casement and the German Government it is stipulated that an Irish Brigade is to be formed out of the Irish soldiers and other Irishmen at present prisoners-of-war in Germany. They are to wear a special Irish uniform, to be trained and fight under the Irish flag, and to be officered exclusively by Irishmen "as soon as suitable Irishmen can be procured from Ireland or from the U.S.A." German officers will be appointed to act provisionally, but no military operation is to be undertaken by the Brigade whilst it is under German officers. It is further stipulated that the Brigade will under no circumstances be employed for the furtherance of any German object, but will fight solely "for the cause of Ireland"; that the German Government will supply uniforms, rations, arms and ammunition to the Brigade, "of its own free will and without any

payment," to mark its desire "to support the Irish in their struggle for independence"; and finally that, since the Brigade is to consist solely of men fighting as volunteers for the independence of their country, "no member of the Brigade is to receive pay or any kind of pecuniary reward from the German Government, *so long as he is on active service with the Brigade.*"

Articles 6 and 7 run as follows:—

6.—The German Imperial Government undertakes *under certain special circumstances* to lend the Irish Brigade adequate military support, and to send it to Ireland abundantly supplied with arms and ammunition, in order that, once there, it may equip any Irish who would like to join it in making an attempt to re-establish Ireland's national liberty by force of arms.

The *special circumstances* stipulated above are as follow:—

In case of a German naval victory which would make it possible to reach the Irish coast, the German Imperial Government pledges itself to despatch the Irish Brigade and a German auxiliary corps commanded by German officers, in German troopships, to attempt a landing on the Irish coast.

7.—It will be impossible to contemplate a *landing in Ireland* unless the German navy can gain such a victory as to make it really likely that an attempt to reach Ireland by sea would succeed. Should the German navy not win such a victory, then a use will be found for the Irish Brigade in Germany or else-

where. But in no case shall it be used except in such ways as Sir Roger Casement shall approve as being completely in accordance with Article 2.

For instance, the Irish Brigade might be sent to Egypt to lend assistance in expelling the English and re-establishing Egyptian independence.

Even if the Irish Brigade should not succeed in fighting for the liberation of Ireland from the English yoke, nevertheless a blow dealt at the British intruders in Egypt, and intended to help the Egyptians to recover their freedom, would be a blow struck for a cause closely related to that of Ireland.

In *Article 8* the German Government undertakes, in the event of the Irish Brigade's volunteering for service in Egypt, to arrange with the Austro-Hungarian Government for its transport to Constantinople, and to induce the Turkish Government to recognise it as a Corps of Volunteers "fighting to help drive the English out of Egypt," and to attach it to the Turkish Army. *Article 9* stipulates that, if the war should end without a "landing in Ireland," every member of the Brigade, who desires it, shall receive from the German Government a free passage to the U.S.A. and sufficient money to satisfy the requirements of the American Immigration Law. Lastly (*Article 10*), if the Irish Brigade effects a landing in Ireland, overthrows British dominion, and establishes an independent Government, the German Government promises the "most complete moral support" to the new "National Government of Ireland."

II.

Office of the Commandant, Zossen,
Crescent Camp (Halbmondlager).

CRESCENT CAMP,
August 20th, 1915.

REPORT.

On June 7th, 50 Irishmen, with one German non-commissioned officer, were handed over to this camp, to be temporarily accommodated. On July 16th another 5 Irishmen arrived, one of whom, having a broken leg, was sent to the camp hospital. There are therefore 54 Irishmen now here (1 sergeant-major, 1 deputy sergeant-major, 3 sergeants, 3 corporals, 3 lance-corporals and 43 privates).

They were accommodated as well as could be in the quarters of the Indian battalion, an arrangement which is very inconvenient, but inevitable considering the tasks imposed upon Crescent Camp.

The Irish form an Irish Brigade, which was constituted after negotiations between the Foreign Office and Sir Roger Casement, the champion of Irish independence.

Enclosed is the Foreign Office communication of December 28th, 1914, confirming the conditions on which the Irish Brigade was to be formed.

The members of the Irish Brigade are no longer German prisoners-of-war, but receive an Irish uniform; and, according to orders, instructions are to be issued to treat the Irish as comrades in arms.

The Irish are under the command of a German officer, First Lieutenant Boehm, the representative of the Grand General Staff (Political Division),

which is in direct communication with the non-commissioned officer in charge of the Irish. This N.C.O. has been receiving money direct, which he expends in the interests of the Irish; 250 marks were given him through the Pay-Department of the Commandant's Office, Zossen, and 250 marks by First Lieutenant Boehm.

Promotions, also, are made known by being directly communicated to the N.C.O. in question. As will appear from the enclosed copy, dated July 20th, these promotions were as follows: 1 sergeant-major, 1 deputy sergeant-major, and 3 sergeants.

The uniforms arrived between the end of July and the beginning of August. Their coming was announced and their distribution ordered in a letter dated July 20th (copy enclosed). The box of uniforms was addressed to Zossen, whence it was brought here. The uniforms consist of a jacket, trousers and cap in Irish style, and are of huntsman's green cloth. Altogether uniforms arrived for 50 men, and they have since been issued. Three non-commissioned officers brought their uniforms with them from Limberg on July 16th. Two photographs of the Irish are annexed.

A few of the Irish are in correspondence with Sir Roger Casement, who, in a letter from Munich, dated August 16th, says that he hears that the Irish are shortly to be transferred from here to another place. In a letter dated July 17th he complains of his want of success, only 50 men having sent in their names as wishing to join the Brigade.

Six weeks ago Sir Roger Casement was here with

First Lieutenant Boehm. Since then, however, neither of these gentlemen has visited the Irish.

Since June 18th the Commandant's Office has allowed every penniless Irishman 2 marks a week, a sum which is now being paid out to 53 men.

On August 6th the N.C.O. in charge of the Irish Brigade was given a German soldier to help him.

In this camp every possible endeavour is made to help to attain the important objects in view, but owing to the fact that the Irish are quartered with coloured races in the precincts of a closed camp, it is inevitable that serious dissensions and acts of violence should take place. Moreover, a German N.C.O. is not suited to exercise authority over Irishmen.

(Signature)

*Hauptmann d. R. a. D.**

III.

Berlin, Political Division of the General Staff.
No. Pol. 6431.

Secret.

8 Moltkestrasse, BERLIN, N.W.40.
March 20th, 1916.

To the Acting Commander-in-Chief
of the Guards, Berlin, C.2.

Referring to the conversation with Lieutenant-Colonel von Voigts-Rhetz, head of the *Personalienabteilung* of the Office of the Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Guards, I have the honour to submit that instructions should be issued that the Irishmen

* Retired Captain on the Reserve List.

kept in readiness for special purposes on the drill ground at Zossen should at once be put through as rapid a course of training as possible in the use of German machine-guns; and that with this object in view a machine-gun, with tripod and all appurtenances, should be mounted by the W.O.* on the said drill ground. The Irish Commander Monteith, as leader of these Irish, is to help to train them.

IV.

Berlin Military Telegraph Office.
TELEGRAM.

To Lieutenant-Colonel von Voigts-Rhetz,
c/o Acting Commander-in-Chief, Guards.

Two machine-guns required for General Staff Political Division have arrived at Commandant's Office, Zossen drill ground.

Military Department No. 1952, 3/16, A.2.
24th March, 1916.

V.

Berlin Military Telegraph Office.
TELEGRAM.

Acting Commander-in-Chief of Guards.

Reply to No. II. bW, No. 230/269, Secret, of March 23rd, 1916—

Considering that men in question are to leave on April 7th next, War Office desires withdraw its objections to men continuing at Zossen, and begs

* War Office.

you do likewise, so that plans of Chief of General Staff of Army on campaign may not be delayed. Must instantly begin train men. You are authorised to request further steps to be taken. Machine-gun is already handed over.

War Office, No. 159/16, Secret, U.K.

24th March, 1916.

VI.

WÖLFELSGRUND,
October 1st, 1915.

My opinion about the treatment of the North African Arabs in Wünsdorf is based on the reports from Crescent Camp, which were shown me at the General Staff, the Office of the Inspector of Prisoner-of-War Camps, and the Office of the Commandant of the Zossen Prisoner-of-War Camp. I only spent about twenty minutes in the camp, and therefore could not judge much from that.

I venture to add that since my report, which I drew up on the basis of my former experience as Consul at Tunis and submitted privately to Colonel Hopf at the War Office, I have ascertained that the man best acquainted with conditions in Tunis and also a Tunisian merchant, both of whom are German subjects at present in Germany, entirely agree with me as to native character and habit of thought.

My experiences have been chiefly with Tunisians and Algerians, and least of all with Moroccans, one of whom, however, I used to have in my house. The Algerians are reputed to be inferior to the Tunisians.

The men [*i.e.*, in the Camp at Wünsdorf] come from by no means a good class; indeed at the outbreak of war all the inhabitants of the large towns in Tunis still used to pay a head tax in order to be free from military service. Consequently only the dregs of the population were taken and put into the army. There is not the least chance of their being large landowners, and it is absolutely preposterous not to make them work. That they should all try every excuse to evade work is only to be expected, considering how incredibly lazy they are. It is also irrelevant to urge that, if they were forced to work, no distinction could be made in favour of a few who might be more or less educated. Anyone able to read and write would simply be employed on lighter work.

Their treatment must always aim at weaning them from the interests of our enemies, and turning them to us, which can only be done by impressing them with a sense of our irresistible power. For the present there must be no thought of treating them kindly or mildly. Unlike the proud Zanzibar Arabs, and other lordly Oriental races, such as the Turks and Albanians, these people are a race of slaves, who have become enslaved owing to centuries of oppression by their princes and rulers. If kindness be shown such people without a cause, they scent weakness behind it, and are never satisfied. In North Africa I came to know many servants, and treating them kindly from the outset has always meant their ruin, whereas ruthless severity followed by milder treatment has always made them of some use.

They must, however, be impressed with Germany's greatness by all the means suited to their mental capacity. Taking them for drives about Berlin, as has hitherto been done, is not at all the right way to go to work. They probably thought the statues in the *Siegesallee* were Italian plaster-of-Paris casts, and the white statues perhaps images of the devil (black races imagine the devil white), and we ourselves devil-worshippers. The Central Africans believe that evil spirits can be exorcised by driving in nails, and they have been nailing Hindenburg's statue. Moreover, they were accompanied by a policeman to protect them against the Berlin "mob."

This is not the way to inspire them with any respect for Germany. The proper thing would have been to show them a musketry charge by our sappers, or several Zeppelins above Wünsdorf, let them hear the roar of the forge-hammers in some ironworks, and so on. . . .

But the most serious matter is trying to enlist them for the Holy War. Now, every war against unbelievers is a Holy War. *Therefore the Holy War is also against us.* England, France and Italy have robbed Islam of territories, and consequently "Vengeance" is the war-cry we ought to have given out. If the Arabs among themselves like to call this war "holy," that is their affair. For us it is "the revolt of oppressed nations against their oppressors." But we can go still further, and say that we have the greatest respect for everyone who consistently abides by the precepts of religion: that the Holy

War is such a religious precept and the chief religious precept binding on Moslems; and therefore we give better treatment to those "honourable" persons who engage to serve in the Holy War. But one thing we ought absolutely never to do, and that is, urge them to wage the war as a Holy War, and still less ought we positively to beg them to enlist in it. The reports I have seen leave the impression on me that this is precisely what has been done. The men must have got the idea that we are in urgent need of their help, and cannot dispense with it. Therefore they look on us as weaklings, and rate us accordingly. The German merchants in North Africa after the war will feel the effects of this, and of everything else that has been done to make up to this rabble; and should political conditions in North Africa change, the consequences might be worse still.

We must always be guided by the principle that it is condescension on our part to allow them to go to war against England, France, and Italy in accordance with their religious ordinances, but that we have no need whatever of their help.

Even if the men are at the same time obliged to work hard, I do not think that there will be a heavy falling off in the numbers of those coming forward for service in Turkey. But no doubt all sorts of other considerations are involved.

Our present treatment of these fellows is quite inconsistent with the proud position which His Majesty the German Emperor created for German-

ism in the world of Islam. To make any change, however, seems very difficult.

(*Sgd.*) COUNT VON HARDENBERG.

His Imperial Majesty's Consul-General, Captain in the Reserve, 3rd Regiment of Foot Guards.

VII.

Communication of 2nd October, 1915.

[With respect to the above communication] your despatch of the 27th inst. was answered yesterday morning. In that answer, I emphasised the fact that the views which I expressed refer only to the North African Arabs; and, in particular, that the Arabs of the Indian Ocean—whom I know well from my former experience as Consul at Zanzibar—are an entirely different race. So far as they are concerned, Lieutenant-Colonel Böhlau is undoubtedly right; but none of *these* Arabs are in Crescent Camp.

In North Africa there is no warrior caste. The people work during Ramadan to the best of their ability; but they spend the early morning in digesting their abundant meal, and in the evening they are too exhausted from hunger. Neither do their rules of diet cause any insuperable difficulty: but in this, as in all their [other] religious requirements, it is desirable to humour them. I discussed the whole subject with the French Commander-in-Chief in Tunis. I asked him how he managed on marches. He replied that, since the Koran allows any officer in command of a body of troops to dispense all

the Mohammedan soldiers [under his command] from every rule of diet, he himself possessed this right of dispensation, and its exercise had never led to any difficulties. At that time Turkey had not yet recognised Tunis as a French possession; but we are the Sultan's allies, and are therefore more entitled to appeal to this precept of the Koran. We must, however, avoid giving the men any of the downright "unclean" foods, *e.g.*, pork. The "Times for Prayer" need not interfere with their work. That the occupants of Crescent Camp are becoming more and more refractory is—considering the indulgence with which we are treating them—only natural, as I explained before.

I am unable to express an equally definite opinion with reference to the treatment of the Indians and of the Russian Mohammedans.

(*Sgd.*) COUNT VON HARDENBERG.

VIII.

Berlin, Political Division of the General Staff.

No. Pol. 5305.

Secret.

8 Moltkestrasse, BERLIN, N.W.40.

January 18th, 1916.

URGENT.

To the Acting Commander-in-Chief
of the Guards, Berlin.

Subject: War Office instructions of January 1st,
1916, No. 333, 1/16, U.K., concerning transference

of Mohammedan prisoners-of-war from Zossen to Turkey.

According to a further communication from the Superintendent of Railways in the War Zone, it is intended to transport 200 volunteers to Turkey on the 24th of this month. Two more troop-trains, each carrying 900 men, are to be despatched between the 5th and the 10th of February. The following proposals are made as to the composition of these trains:—

1st troop-train. Composition: 200 French Mohammedans from Crescent Camp, under the command of First Lieutenant Wetzel of the Reserve, assisted by 1 interpreter and 1 ambulance subaltern, and accompanied by a military detachment composed of 1 subaltern and 10 men.

2nd troop-train. Composition: remainder of the French volunteers from Crescent Camp, Indian Mohammedan volunteers from the same camp, and Russian Mohammedans from Weinberg Camp, these last to fill up the train until there are 900 men on board. Train to be under the command of Major Freiherr von Nadeln, together with Reserve Lieutenant Grobba, 1 doctor, and 4 interpreters, accompanied by a military detachment of 2 subalterns, 20 men, and 1 bugler.

3rd troop-train: 900 Russian Mohammedans from Weinberg Camp, under the command of First Lieutenant Böhlau, assisted by Reserve Lieutenant Beermann, 1 doctor and 4 interpreters, accompanied by a military detachment consisting of 2 subalterns and 20 men, 1 bugler.

Acting under the authority of the Royal War Office, I hereby have the honour to request the Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Guards to see that the necessary orders for carrying out the above arrangements with regard to the making up of the troop-trains are issued with the least possible delay.

A copy of this letter is being sent to the War Office.

(*Sgd.*) NADOLNY.

There follow four documents (Nos. IX.-XII.), which are not of sufficient interest to be reproduced in full.

No. IX., dated from Berlin on the 19th January, 1916, and signed, on behalf of the Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Guards, by von Bresen, Chief of the Staff, instructs the Commandant of the prisoners' camp at Zossen to issue the necessary orders [see No. VIII.] at once.

No. X., dated from Zossen on January 22nd, 1916, and signed by von Oesfeld, reports to the Acting Commander-in-Chief of the Guards that his instructions [see No. IX.] have been carried out, explains what arrangements have been made for providing medical service and escorts for the troop-trains, and states that the War Office has fixed January 27th, 1916, as the date of departure of the first train.

No. XI., dated 11th February, 1916, is a report from the Guards' Inspector of Prisoners' Camps to the Acting Commander in-Chief of the Guards, enclosing a list of 200 Mohammedan prisoners-of-war who left for Turkey between January 15th and February 9th, 1916.

To Make Men Traitors

No. XII. is a "supplementary report," dated from Crescent Camp on April 5th, 1916, and signed by Freiherr von Nadeln. It seems that Lieutenant-General von Bronsart had stated that Enver Pasha intended to break up the battalion of Mohammedan prisoners-of-war and to distribute its members over various regiments, on the ground that, since they had voluntarily surrendered, they must be cowards and unreliable. Freiherr von Nadeln now reports the result of an interview with Enver Pasha. It was explained to the latter that many of these Mohammedan prisoners had been persuaded by German propaganda pamphlets (announcing the outbreak of a "Holy War") to surrender, and had risked their lives in doing so, and that many others had only fallen into German hands because they had been wounded or rendered unconscious by gas. This had caused Enver to change his mind, and he had now decided that the battalion should not be broken up. He reviewed it in person the day after the interview, and thenceforward it has received specially favourable treatment as regards quarters and rations.

XIII.

War Office,
No. 30/16.g.U.5.

BERLIN,

February 2nd, 1916.

The War Office, acting in agreement with the Royal War Offices of Bavaria, Saxony and Württemberg, has found itself compelled, out of consideration for German prisoners-of-war in foreign countries, to

consent to some relaxation of the rules hitherto observed with regard to visits paid to prisoner-of-war camps.

All the regulations hitherto in force concerning such visits are repealed, and from henceforth the following rules will come into force:—

The representatives of the Powers to whom are entrusted the interests of prisoners-of-war captured from our enemies shall, provided the War Offices have been informed of their names by the Foreign Office, receive permission to visit German prisoners' camps and military hospitals at any time and without previous notice, only if these contain prisoners who are subjects of the Power they represent. This permission shall take the form of passes supplied to them by the War Office.

Diplomatic or Consular representatives are requested, at the outset of their visits, to call upon the Camp Commandant or his representative, and in the case of *military hospitals* upon the *Chief Doctor or Doctor in charge*. *The last named are entitled to raise objections to their visit on medical grounds (danger of infection, etc.).*

The War Office has the honour to submit the following additional regulations:—

Propaganda camps may likewise be visited by the protecting Powers without notice, but on condition that they contain subjects of a nation whose interests are confided to the delegate soliciting admission to the camp in question. In general, it shall be left to the Commandant *to prevent unpleasant discussions arising in such camps. In case questions be*

asked about workshops in a camp, no mention is to be made of any workshops in which war material is being manufactured.

The same principle is to be applied to workshops to which the employers for business reasons are unwilling to admit visitors.

Should one of the protecting Powers nevertheless know of the existence of such workshops, and attempt to obtain admission to them by sending a representative, such request for admission must be refused. Those entrusted with the office of camp supervision must therefore be instructed by Head Quarters in no circumstances to allow anyone in, and to give as the reason for not doing so that from military considerations no one can be admitted.

By order,

(Sgd.) FRIEDRICH.

XIV.*

War Office.

No. 165/16. geh. K.U.

Secret.

5 Leipzigerstrasse, BERLIN, W.66.
May 9th, 1916.

In further reference to your letter dated March 24th, 1916, Department II. b.W., No. 230/525.

In considering the question of the propaganda carried on among Mohammedan prisoners-of-war, it is essential to remember that they belong to foreign races which have gradually been subjugated by the

* To the following document marginal notes are appended, written by von Löwenfeldt, General of Infantry, Acting General of the Corps of Guards and Adjutant-General to the Kaiser. These marginal notes are given as footnotes when they occur.

countries for which they have been obliged to enter the war. Similarly with regard to the Irish, as is proved by the present movement in favour of Irish independence, a movement which has of late manifested itself very strongly, and which is justified by past history. Moreover, Turkey has never recognised French and Russian suzerainty over the Mohammedans of North Africa and the Caucasus, and some of the Mohammedans in Russia are now openly endeavouring to gain their independence. The comparison with our treatment of Alsace-Lorraine does not altogether hold good, for the population of these two provinces *is not a nation of foreign origin which has been subdued by us.**

As for the view put forward that the work of German officers and soldiers in propaganda camps is incompatible with the sense of duty and honour of a German soldier, it may be remarked that the first suggestion to undertake such propaganda came from the highest quarters in the Empire, and, *moreover, with the knowledge of His Majesty the King-Emperor.*†

As for the officers, all they have to do is to supervise the propaganda, whereas it is left to the professional propagandists to influence the opinions of prisoners-of-war. Should there be officers in the Mohammedan camps who consider such employment incompatible with the standard of honour of a

* Here von Löwenfeldt makes the following marginal note: "But they are as foreign in origin as the Irish. The French inhabitants of Lorraine are not at all of the same race as ourselves, but for centuries past have spoken French. . . ."

† Marginal note by Löwenfeldt: "I never said that!"

German soldier, then there is no reason why they should not be employed in some other capacity.

As to the question of international law, the War Office has the honour to submit that in a life-and-death struggle such as that which we are compelled to wage, and in which our enemies, disregarding international conventions, shrink at nothing, *Germany must likewise make the utmost use of every means of defence at her disposal.*

(Sgd.) v. WENDEL,

For the Minister of War.

To the Acting Officer in Command of the
Royal Regiment of the Guards, Berlin.

The *Volksrecht*, commenting on these last words : "every means of defence at her disposal," says that here is brutality naked and unashamed. "We are glad," it continues, "that the acting German Minister of War has frankly avowed the principles on which Germany wages war. The pity is that he should have done this merely in a secret document. Here, however, is at least a frank confession that as for international law so called, the Germans snap their fingers at it; while all the time doing everything possible, by means of diplomatic notes and well-turned speeches in the Reichstag, to prove beyond all doubt that it is the German Government which, during the last three years, has been the true guardian angel of that international law which other nations are for ever trampling under foot."

